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ABSTRACT

This guide provides a concise overview of current copyright law and its interpretations, particularly for classroom educators, librarians, school media specialists, and their constituents. Building on the question-and-answer format introduced in the first edition, the second edition adds commentary on critical developments of the last eight years, especially those related to video, digitization, electronic communications, and emerging technologies of the global information infrastructure. Users are guided through the complexities of copyright law. The background information and question-and-answer format are designed to help readers understand the intent of the law in order to better judge the appropriateness of their actions. The expertise of intellectual property attorneys and other specialists was gathered in this update of the original primer. Sections include: "General Copyright Information"; "Fair Use"; "Library Copying under Section 108"; "Classroom Photocopying"; "College and University Photocopying and Library Reserve Room Copying"; "Musical, Dramatic, and Nondramatic Performances"; "Off-Air Taping; Videocassettes"; "The Electronic Environment, Databases, and Digital Issues"; "Computer Software and Databases; Multimedia"; "Internet"; and "Distance Education Concerns." Eight appendices are entitled: "Requesting Permission for Academic Copying"; "Developing Policies on Copyright"; "Selected Court Cases"; "Resources and Addresses"; "Copyright Sources on the Internet"; "Intellectual Property"; "Fair Use in the Electronic Age"; and "Sections 106-110 of the Copyright Law of the United States of America." A 73-item bibliography is also appended. (Contains 24 references.) (MAS)